

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO DENMARK

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI'S THREE DAY VISIT TO DENMARK WAS A BUSY AND NOSTALGIC ONE BUT REPORTEDLY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

1.DURING THREE TIGHTLY-SCHEDULEDDAYS, DECEMBER 17-19, NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER TRYGVE BRATTELI, AND HIS WIFE WERE TREATED TO GRAND TOUR OF THE DANISH CAPITAL. THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER, ANKER JORGENSEN, WHO IS STILL CONVALESCING AT HIS HOME FROM A BOUT WITH RHEUMATIC FEVER, RECEIVED BRATTELI FOR DISCUSSIONS. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS THE TWO PRIMINS, WHO WERE ALONE, DISCUSSED NATO, EC, UN AND ENERGY.

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2. THE NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, INGVALD ULVESETH,

WHO ACCOMPANIED BRATTLI, HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS DANISH COUNTERPART, MINISTER OF COMMERCE ERLING JENSEN, CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIRECT OIL PIPELINE FROM THE NORWEGIAN NORTH SEA FIELDS TO DENMARK. THE ISSUE WILL BE TAKEN UP AGAIN AT THE NEXT NORDIC PRIME MINISTER'S CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY.

3. THE TONE OF THE VISIT -- REPORTEDLY BRATTLI'S LAST TRIP OUTSIDE OF NORWAY BEFORE STEPPING DOWN -- WAS ONE OF NOSTALGIA. IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE DANISH PRESS CLUB, HE RECALLED THE WARMTH WITH WHICH HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN COPENHAGEN ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO DENMARK IN THE EARLY 30'S. AT THE OFFICIAL GALA DINNER, FONMIN ANDERSEN EMPHASIZED THE SPECIAL AND TRADITIONAL DANISH-NORWEGIAN TIES THAT MANIFEST THEMSELVES IN SUCH INTERNATIONAL BODIES AS THE UN. ANDERSEN IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE HAVE A LONG AND EXCELLENET TRADITION OF COOPERATION WHICH WAS NOT BROKEN BY THE DANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMON MARKET. THE DANES WILL NEVER FORGET THAT EUROPE IS MORE THAN JUST THE NINE". ANDERSEN RECALLED THAT BOTH DENMARK AND NORWAY HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF NATO FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS AND SAID THAT WITHIN THE SECURITY THAT THAT ALLIANCE OFFERS, "BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN EFFORTS TOWARD EAST/WEST DETENTE". END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT: MFA CHIEF OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, BENNY KIMBERG, TOLD US THAT BRATTLEI'S TRIP WAS LARGELY SYMBOLIC AND CEREMONIAL AND LITTLE OR NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE OCCURRED. KIMBERG REMARKED ON THE REAL FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP THAT THE DANES HOLD FOR MR. BRATTELI AND THEIR PARTICULAR PLEASURE IN BEING ABLE TO SERVE AS HOSTS FOR HIS LAST OFFICIAL APPEARANCE OUTSIDE HIS HOME COUNTRY BEFORE STEPPING DOWN AS PRIME MINISTER.
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